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Week ending Friday March 31, 2017

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Local News

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'Silicon Valley' initiative a huge jobs boost for Essex

THOUSANDS of new jobs could be created in Essex after plans for three medical technology centres were revealed, including one in Southend.

Essex County Council has pledged £2.5 million towards Anglia Ruskin University's £5 million new MedTech Innovation Centre at Harlow.

Two more centres are planned at Southend and Chelmsford.

A spokesman for Essex County Council said: "Investment in the campuses will help to establish Essex, and the UK, as a global leader in this sector and will secure local and national economic growth."

The County Hall spokesman described the first Essex science park as the latest step towards Essex 'rivaling America's famous Silicon Valley'.

The Harlow centre alone, on the 25-acre Harlow Science Park, will create 500 jobs. The site will focus on high-technology businesses in the Life Science, ICT and Advanced Manufacturing sectors and provide more than 500,000 square feet of space with the potential to employ up to 3,000 people.

Councillors and ministers announced last month that University of Essex was to lead a campaign to make the county a global centre for computer gaming.

Professor Iain Martin, vice chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University said: "This is an extremely exciting project with the potential to help the county become a world leader in the medical technology sector."

Essex business leaders in the technology and innovation sector have welcomed the county's response to the government's Industrial Strategy.

David Burch, director of policy at Essex Chambers of Commerce, added: "We look forward to working together - strengthening business and promoting innovation and opportunity in Essex."

The deal was announced as

Essex published a special report in response to the government's Industrial Strategy, which showcases the county as a key investment area for central Government to realise its ambitions.

Anglia Ruskin University, supported by Essex County Council, has a vision to establish three MedTech Campus Science Parks at Chelmsford, Harlow and Southend, of which the Harlow MedTech Innovation Centre is a part.

These campuses aim to create one of the world's largest health innovation hubs, attracting international and national companies around the innovative medical technology sector.

TOWER BLOCKS FOR THE CHOP

Queensway regeneration project moves to next stage



AMBITIOUS: Cllr Ann Holland

By Michael Cox

southend@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND Council has confirmed that a plan to demolish its tower blocks and create 400 houses has moved to the next phase with the process of selecting a partner to deliver the project set to start.

A report due to be considered at a meeting of Southend Council's cabinet on Tuesday sets out an update on the Better Queensway project.

The project is a regeneration project on the Queensway estate - aimed at transforming part of the town centre.

A number of recommendations are made in the report, which seeks approval to start the procurement process.

The report focuses on agreeing the council's expectations and ambitions for the project.

These include a minimum of 441 affordable homes are included in the scheme, returning council tenants retaining the 'right to buy' clause and the inclusion for the principle of a community fund.

A council spokesman confirmed the process to select a partner to deliver the project with the council will start in May, with a decision due by January 2018.

Cllr Ann Holland, deputy leader of the council, said: "I am pleased that this project is progressing so well."

"It is the biggest and most ambitious and transformational regeneration project that the council has undertaken in recent memory and it vital that we follow due process and get this detailed work done before starting the procurement process."

The report also confirms the tower blocks will be demolished as part of the scheme.

The council spokesman said initial demolition notices will be served at the same time as a resident offer handbook being distributed, that will make clear the options available to residents.

● Turn to page 7

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Tower blocks

From front page

A preferred transport option has also been completed which will allow new traffic movements in and out of Short Street, a reconfigured Southchurch Road and widened Chichester Road and a realigned one-way link between Southchurch Road and Sutton Road.

Cabinet will also consider a borough-wide decant policy that will apply to the Better Queensway project, but also any other major regeneration projects in the future.

This sets out the home loss and disturbance payments that residents will be eligible for.

A local lettings policy has also been developed and was set to be considered at the same meeting, which would allow people who want to move away from the Queensway estate the right to apply to be on the housing register if they are not already, and give additional priority to those already on the list to help them move.

Cllr Holland added: "We are clear that residents will be offered new tenancies on the same terms and conditions as their current ones and will be offered assistance to move if they do not want to be part of the regenerated estate through a newly created local letting policy.

"The report also clearly sets out what we want from the project and what we expect from any partner, to ensure that we deliver our aims and ambitions for the current residents of the Queensway estate, the council, and the borough as a whole."

Car fumes killed couple

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

TWO YOUNG people found dead inside a car in Chelmsford last year died of carbon monoxide poisoning, an inquest has determined.

Thomas Putt, 20, of Wren Close in Leigh, and Nikki Willis, 23, of Fox Crescent, Chelmsford, were both found dead in Mr Putt's Ford Fiesta in Fox Crescent on December 5.

Essex Police said tests were carried out on the car which "found modifications had been made", which caused 1,000 times more than the normal amount of carbon

monoxide to fill up the car.

Mr Putt worked as an engineer at Ford.

Detective Inspector Rob Kirby said: A unique series of events came together which led to this tragic incident to taking place.

"The combination of the modifications, the cold, still weather and the engine running whilst the car was stationary, all contributed to what happened that night.

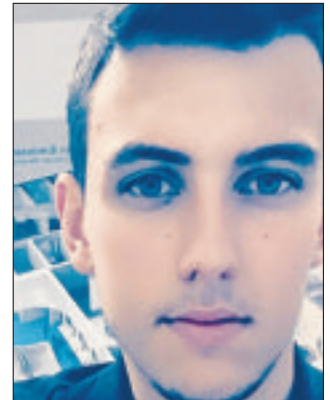
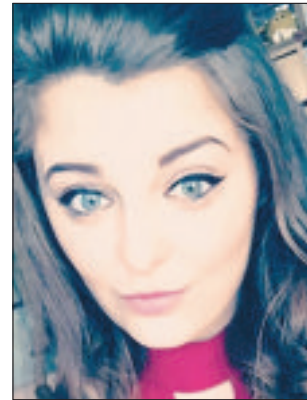
"When modified, vehicles can produce significant quantities of carbon monoxide. This car was found to emit levels 1,000 times higher than a factory standard identical vehicle.

"There are inherent dangers in modifying vehicles. Even if you think you know what you are doing, this can still lead to unintended consequences.

"If you have carried out modifications on your vehicle, I urge you to satisfy yourself that these modifications are legal, and more importantly, safe, by consulting a qualified mechanic.

"Essex Police along with Tom and Nikki's families want to ensure a tragic event like this can never happen again. Please have your vehicle checked."

The inquest, held on Tuesday, March 21, ruled that the deaths were accidental.



FATAL Willis (left) and Putt had no idea of high levels of carbon monoxide

Alarm over rash of Leigh and Westcliff burglaries

DETECTIVES have asked residents to be extra vigilant following a spate of burglaries in Leigh and Westcliff.

Burglars broke into a home in Leighwood Avenue, Leigh, between 10am and 4pm on Thursday, March 16. They stole an LG television, sapphire and diamond gold ring, a necklace, gate bracelet and a teal-coloured duvet with a bird design.

Jewellery and a passport were stolen from a home in Leigh Road, Leigh, between 7.30am and 7.45pm on Thursday, March 16.

Another home in Leigh Road was broken into between 7.30am and 4pm on the same day. The intruders stole a Sony games console, GHD hair straighteners, a Thomas Sabo bracelet with a puffer fish charm, a Tiffany necklace with a 'New York' pendant, brooches, and white pillow cases with embroidered flowers.

A MacBook Air and an iPad Air 2

were stolen from a home in Grand Parade, Leigh, between 7.30am and 8pm on Monday, March 13, while jewellery was taken from a home in Pall Mall, Leigh, between 7pm on Friday, March 10 and 10am on Saturday, March 11.

A Sony games console, black Armani man's watch, money and bank cards were stolen from an address on Leigh Hill, Leigh, between 6.30am and 6pm on Monday, March 6.

Cash, a tablet computer and jewellery including engagement and eternity rings were stolen from a home in Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh, sometime between 4pm and 9.40pm on Thursday, March 2.

Burglars broke into an address in Clifton Parade, Westcliff, between 8am and 1pm on Wednesday, March 8. They stole a haul of property including a Mercedes C220 AMG

Sport CDI, Playstation games consoles, jewellery, a piggy bank and a CD cover signed by Little Mix.

DC Rachel Martin, of Southend CID, said: "These burglaries are believed to be linked and I am appealing for witnesses who saw anyone acting suspiciously in these areas in recent weeks.

"I am also keen to hear from anyone who has been offered for sale items similar to those stolen or knows of their whereabouts.

"I ask residents to be vigilant and to make sure doors are double locked and windows safely secured.

"If you do see anyone acting suspiciously, note down descriptions of suspects and vehicles."

Anyone with information can contact Southend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● A man was stabbed close to Guildford Road, Southend, at around 4.30am on Friday, March 24. Officers received a call that a 33-year-old man, from London, was banging on the door of the Guildford Pub, in Sutton Road, calling for help. He was stabbed in the upper thigh. However, the victim walked away from the scene after refusing treatment. There are now concerns for his welfare. Anyone with information should call Southend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

● A 60-year old woman was sprayed with fluid during a robbery in Southend. The incident took place in Sherwood Way at 12pm on March 6. The woman was approached by a man wearing a balaclava who sprayed her with an

unknown fluid. He stole the victim's handbag before driving away in a blue BMW. The victim was left with minor injuries on her skin and mouth. Anyone with information should contact DC Rory Scarlett at Southend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

● A SCOOTER driver was injured in a Southend road collision earlier this month. The victim, 40, was taken to hospital after being knocked off of his red Peugeot scooter on Friday, March 17. A grey Fiat Punto collided with the scooter at the entrance to the Asda car park in North Shoebury Road at around 9pm. The Police are "keen to speak to a driver of a white Mercedes who witnessed the incident". Contact Mark Ammon at Chigwell RPU on 101.

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Essex girl twist for modern classic

THE Queen's Theatre is offering two lucky winners the chance to win a pair of tickets to see Willy Russell's inspirational comedy, *Educating Rita*.

The Hornchurch venue is set to stage a refreshing take of the classic with Rita being portrayed as an Essex girl instead of a Liverpudlian.

Educating Rita, which runs from April 22 to May 13, is a hilarious yet moving story about a working-class hairdresser determined to find herself with higher education.

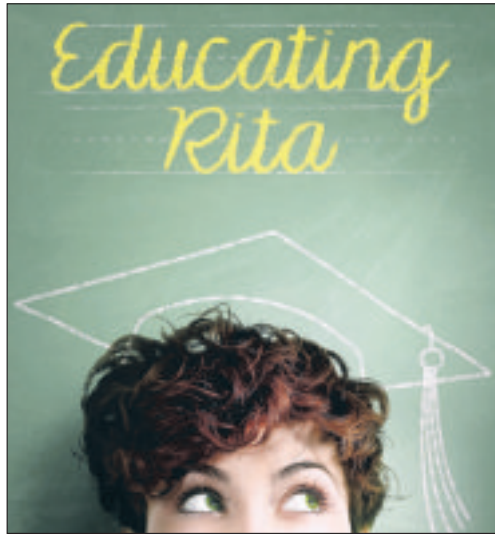
Frank becomes her assigned tutor, but grudgingly accepts the challenge. Slowly, he realises that his enthusiastic student has much to teach him too – making him question himself, his work and his very being in the process.

Playing whisky-loving Open University Professor Frank Bryant is Ruairi Conaghan. He has an expansive theatre career working in the West End, off Broadway and has performed alongside Benedict Cumberbatch in *Hamlet* at The Barbican in 2015.

Danielle Flett is gobby hairdresser Rita. She was most recently seen performing alongside Kit Harington (TV's *Game of Thrones*) in Jamie Lloyd's 2016 West End production of *Doctor Faustus* and is currently filming for a role in the new BBC comedy series *White Gold* which stars Joe Thomas and James Buckley (*The Inbetweeners*).

For the first time in Queen's Theatre history, audiences will be able to get up close to the action as the theatre will be extending the stage into the auditorium to offer a unique and intimate setting.

For more information visit www.queens-theatre.co.uk or



call the box office on 01708 443333.

For your chance to win one of two pairs of tickets to see *Educating Rita* on Monday, April 24, at 7.30pm, answer the following question.

Q: While the original Rita is a Liverpudlian, where is Queen's Theatre's Rita from?

A: London
B: Essex
C: Birmingham

To enter the competition telephone your answer – A, B or C – to 0901 307 1697 with your name, address, telephone number and email.

Alternatively text YARITA (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333.

Calls cost 50p per call plus your phone company's access charge. Calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, text EXIT at the end of your message.

Lines close on Thursday, April 6. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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LET THEM EAT CAKE: Age Concern is raising funds for the elderly in Southend

Time for tea and charity

TWO tea parties are being held to raise money for a charity based in Westcliff.

The events are taking place at Park View Suite in Chalkwell Park on April 19 and July 20, and will fundraise for Age Concern Southend, based in Hamlet Court Road.

The charity's chief executive Lin Boulter said both events, which will last from 1pm until 4pm,

will feature traditional afternoon teas and live entertainment as well as a raffle. Half of the money generated from ticket sales will go to the charity.

Lin said the funds raised would go towards the delivery of services for the elderly in Southend.

Tickets cost £12 and to purchase, call the charity on 01702 345373.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **OFFICERS** from Southend Community Policing team (CPT) have been working with partner agencies to reduce the level of street begging and drinking in the town.

Southend CPT has been working during March with numerous partner agencies in Southend High Street. They have also been assisting charities and services to

approach homeless people and offer information about the support that is available to them for housing, health and other support services.

Southend CPT will continue the operation on a monthly basis throughout 2017.

● **POLICE** are appealing after a man was punched in the face during a break-in at a house in Shoebury.

Two men, one armed with a knife, broke in to an address in Herongate at

around 3.45am on Saturday, March 25.

The occupants, a man and a woman, were present at the time. The man was punched in the face.

Both suspect were white, around 5ft 10ins tall, of large build and wearing black tracksuit bottoms. One wore a black hooded top and the other a red hooded top.

Anyone with information is asked to call Southend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Pie & smash

Children at Holt Farm Junior School in Ashington Road, Rochford, got to stick a pie in the face of school staff during a 'Pie in the Eye' fundraising event for Comic Relief on Friday.



Photos: Martin Dalton

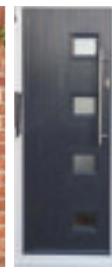
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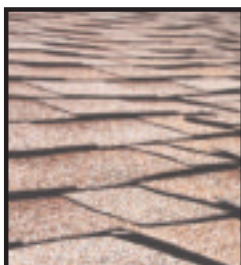
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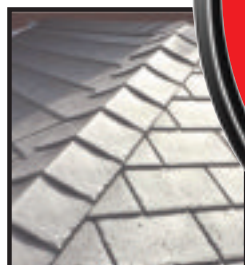
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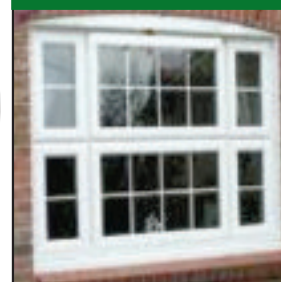
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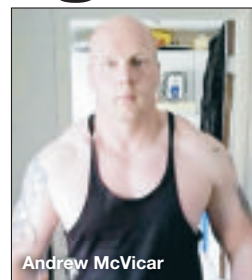
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Hullbridge manhunt

POLICE want to trace a Basildon man in connection with the death of a man from Hullbridge.

Detectives investigating the death of Timothy Smith, 57, following an alleged robbery in Hullbridge are asking for help to find Andrew McVicar.

McVicar, 33, is wanted on suspicion of murder, robbery and possession of a firearm in connection with the incident in The Drive, Hullbridge on



Andrew McVicar

Sunday, March 19.

McVicar has a Scottish accent and tattoos which read 'honour' and 'pride'.

Contact Harlow Major Crime on 101.

● Two men have been charged in connection with the death of a Hullbridge man: Jamie Caborn, 28, of Luncies Road, Basildon, and Colin Garrod, 50, of Crowborough Road, Southend.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

● **BUS** users are happier with the punctuality and journey times of services in Essex according to a new national survey.

The Bus Passenger Survey, conducted by independent watchdog Transport Focus, showed a substantial rise in customer satisfaction with Essex bus users.

More than 86 percent of Essex passengers said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall journey (up from 79 percent in 2015)

For more information about the bus services that are available in Essex, please visit: essexhighways.org/Getting-Around/bus

● **HUNDREDS** of apprenticeships are on offer at two, free 'Get Sorted' events for school leavers aged 16 to 19, in Colchester and Basildon.

Potential applicants should attend dressed for interview and with an up-to-date CV.

The first of the two events, organised by Essex County Council's new Apprenticeship Promotion and Brokerage Hub, is on Wednesday April 5, at Firstsite, off Queen's Street in Colchester.

The second event on Monday April 10, will be held at St George's Suite, Basildon Council Offices, St Martin's Square, SS14 1DL.

Those wanting to register for the event or employers who are looking to recruit an apprentice can contact apprenticeships@essex.gov.uk



LOCAL HERO: Veteran Robert Nichols in front of a display about his experience on show at the Southend exhibition

Photo: Tessa Hallmann

Veteran exhibition to honour heroes

AN EXHIBITION has opened at a museum in Southend, throwing light on the history of veterans.

Veterans: A Shared Experience went on display at Southend Central Museum on Saturday, March 25.

The exhibition sees local servicemen and women share their memories of conflict through interviews, oral history and portrait photography.

It was launched with a private viewing for Southend veterans on Saturday.

Cllr Ann Holland, executive councillor for culture, tourism

and the economy, said: "This exhibition will bring the actions of our local servicemen and women to the forefront of our minds.

"It will leave visitors with a deeper connection to the past and to those who fought for our freedoms today.

"We are very thankful as, without the help of our veterans and their loved ones, some whom have sadly passed during this project, we would not be able to bring this exhibition to the people of Southend."

The exhibition will run until March 24, 2018.

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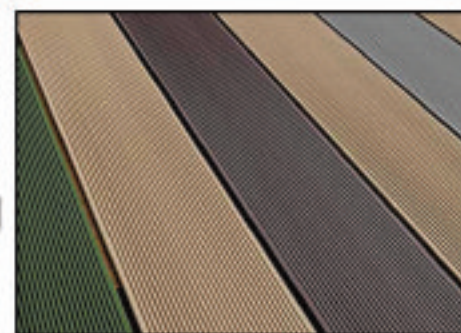
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Students' auction raises £1,600 for end-of-year show

STUDENTS from South Essex College organised an auction to raise money for an end-of-year show.

Third-year graphic design students, who all study at the college's University Centre Southend, contacted graphic designers and illustrators such as Anthony Burrill, David Carson, Chris Riddell and Oliver Jeffers, who donated work for the event.

Held in the college's Southend Campus Gallery, on Luker Road, the donated work was exhibited alongside pieces from the students as well as the lecturers.

Guests had a chance to view the work before bidding on individual pieces.

The event raised more than £1,600, which will go towards the group's final degree show at D&AD New Blood in London.

Graphic design student Ellise Collins, 21, from Leigh, said: "The auction went brilliantly, definitely better than expected."

"Even the student work, including mine

and my fellow peers, sold for lots of money, which felt great and rewarding.

"We've had a really great response from the people that came, everyone said how professional and well run the event was.

"I've spent this weekend talking with the artists and designers who sent in work and invited them to our end-of-year show.

"Nearly all of them said they would come along to support us, which is so kind."



GOING, GOING, GONE: Students at the end-of-year auction

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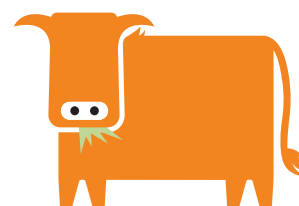


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CONFIDENT: Dr Lobera

St Luke's Health Centre set to stay in temporary home

A PLANNING application has been submitted to keep St Luke's Health Centre in temporary premises for the next 18 months.

NHS Southend Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has put forward the application to Southend Council to keep the St Luke's GP practice in temporary buildings in Pantile Avenue.

A CCG spokesman said the

council had asked for a detailed application to confirm there were comprehensive plans in place to develop and refurbish Cumberlege Lodge, also in Pantile Avenue.

If the planning permission is granted, it would enable the St Luke's practice to stay in temporary premises while the Cumberlege Lodge plans are taken forward.

Dr José García Lobera, chair

of NHS Southend CCG, said: "We understand entirely why Southend's planning officers wanted these reassurances and are confident our application will show the commitment being made to this development and the amount of work and planning we have put in place to ensure its realisation."

The plans will be considered by councillors at a meeting in early May.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **COUNCIL** chiefs met with Essex Police last week to discuss how to 'manage' allegedly unlawful traveller camps. A final protocol will be published in May.

● **THE ESSEX** Energy Switch has reached an all-time high of more than 7,000.

Essex County Council said the scheme has helped save residents and businesses £2million on gas and electricity bills, saving £109 on average.

To find out more and to sign up from April 4, visit: essex.gov.uk/energyswitch

The auction will be held on May 23.

● **A NETWORK** of autism support centres will open in Essex ahead of World Autism Awareness Week.

Eight centres will have admissions managed by Essex County Council, including: Merrylands in Basildon and Bromfords in Wickford.

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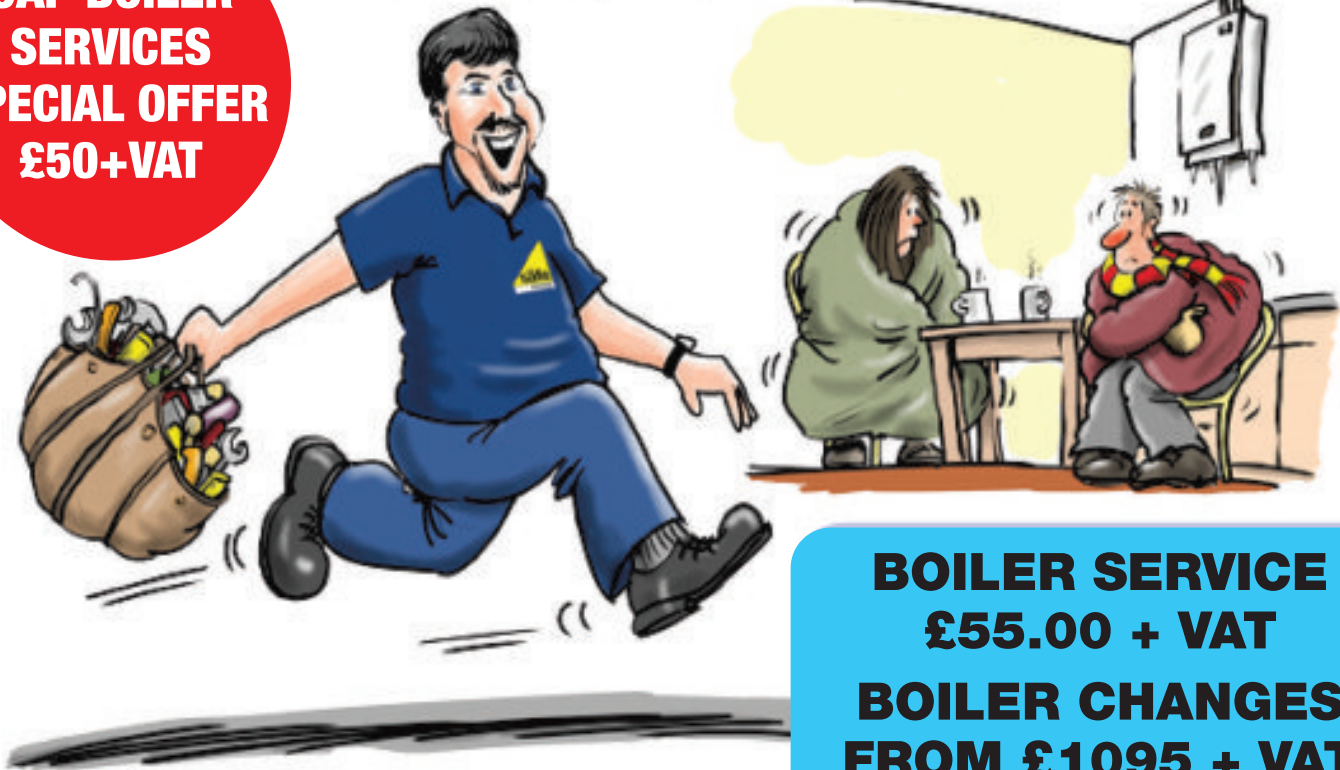
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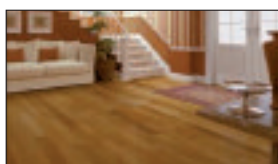
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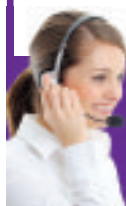
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New chief exec for Southend Council

THE appointment of a new chief executive for Southend Council has been approved at a meeting of Full Council.

Alison Griffin is set to take over the roles of chief executive and town clerk – incumbent Rob Tinlin is due to retire at the end of March.

The recommendation was made by the appointments and disciplinary committee after a national recruitment and selection process.

Ms Griffin is currently director of finance and corporate services at Bexley London Borough Council.

She said that she was delighted to have been appointed and to have received approval from Full Council at its meeting on Tuesday, March 21.

Ms Griffin added: "I am very excited about the challenge of taking the council on the next stage of its journey and am looking forward to meeting all of the staff, councillors, partners, local residents and businesses when I start later in the year."



DELIGHTED:
Alison Griffin



Southend police fly flag at half mast for Westminster victims

AN ESSEX Police flag was flying at half-mast in Southend on Friday following the terror attack in Westminster.

The flag was pictured by *Yellow Advertiser* photographer Martin Dalton outside Southend Police Station on Victoria Avenue.

Five people, including policeman Keith Palmer, 48, and the attacker Kalid Masood, 52, died after the incident in Westminster on Wednesday, March 23.

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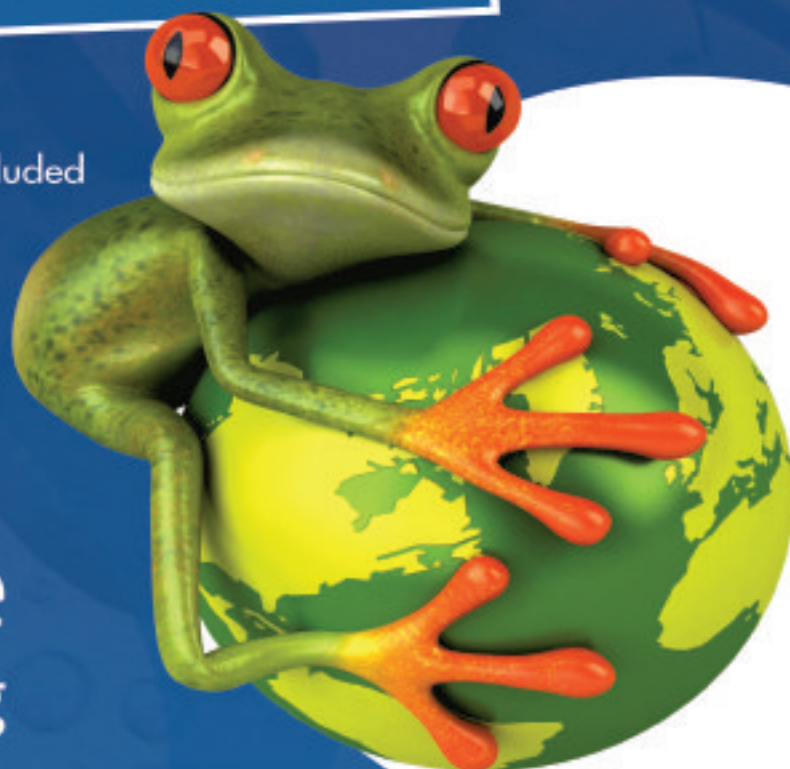
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We need another say on Brexit

THERESA May promised to "negotiate hard" for the best possible deal for Britain as we leave the European Union when it was announced that she will trigger the beginning of formal withdrawal talks on March 29.

"We are going to be out there, negotiating hard, delivering on what the British people voted for," she said.

Well at least, over the next two years of negotiations, the British people will finally find out what they are going to get ... as opposed to what they thought they voted for.

And if what they will be getting is going to be painfully nothing like what they thought they'd voted for surely, in the name of all things decently democratic, they will have to have another say on the matter.

If not, it will be an affront to the democracy of this nation as a hard-right faction of the Conservative Party take it upon themselves to interpret the referendum result as they see fit in their own ideological way.

And who in their right mind voted for that?

John Haran
Leigh-on-Sea

Yes or no too simple

FRED Nicholson's letter (YA March 24) in calling for Brexit

now sums up perfectly why the Government was wrong to take an issue as complex as our membership of the European Union and boil it down to a choice of "in" or "out".

What the Government is trying to do is develop a strategy for leaving the EU that minimises the negative impacts of withdrawal from the world's largest free trade area. This is a complicated issue and I am sure that the Brexit Ministers themselves underestimated just how difficult this will be.

In the past few days we have seen airlines, Mini and Goldman Sachs suggest they will have to leave the UK and record numbers of nurses have already gone. Inflation is now rising and WTO tariffs, which Boris Johnson claims would not be a problem, would add 45 per cent to the cost of your Sunday joint.

In his desire to leave now, no doubt for vague concepts like "taking back control", Mr Nicholson clearly either doesn't know or doesn't care what the impact will be on the UK.

We know that the economy will be smaller and us Brits will be poorer, we also know that significant sectors of the UK economy such as agriculture, catering and hospitality, caring, and distribution and logistics, will struggle to find employees to fill posts, pushing up costs for the consumer.

How far does this self-destruction have to continue before the Brexiteers begin to question the choice they so clearly made out of sheer ignorance. Perhaps if our politicians hadn't spent the last

40 years blaming the EU for their own cock-ups we could have had an informed debate about our membership.

And I'm pretty sure the result would have been different.

Phil Martin
Hockley

Invest in the security of our citizens

THE Westminster atrocity is indeed depraved, as Prime minister May says.

All thoughts are with the victims' families and those recovering from injuries.

This kind of random attack is so very difficult to prevent in our free society, but we say that re-investment must be made in both the police and anti-terrorism services to give greater security to citizens and ensure everyday life carries on.

Cllr Mark Flewitt and
Cllr Steve Buckley
Leigh-on-Sea

Hospice messed up marathon

HAVENS Hospice is a very worthy charity, but this is the second time the management has upset people in our area.

They wasted thousands of pounds of charity money pursuing building a hospice on green belt land at Belton Way in Leigh and now they have

upset seafarers traders by not organising the Southend Marathon properly.

When it comes to health charities some people immediately believe they can't do anything wrong and blame everyone else for their mistakes.

It is doubtful the hospice management are volunteers but are probably being paid a very substantial wage for their services.

At least they have apologised for their shortcomings but they must get their act together for future events.

In my opinion the people that blamed and insulted the seafarers traders should now hang their heads in shame.

Alan James
Hockley

A&E dept downgrade

DESPITE assurances, accident and emergency provision at Southend University Hospital is going to be downgraded.

It is not a question of 'if', but of 'how much?' This affects not only the blue light services, those people conveyed by ambulance, but also those that arrive at A&E under their own steam.

The proposals do not include a 'none of the above' option, and so only Basildon will have a full A&E operation, whilst

Chelmsford and Southend are seeing changes. This has ramifications beyond the quality of healthcare provided.

The most obvious objection, oft repeated in almost every conversation I have had on this subject, are on the subject of extended journey times. Those living in the east of the Borough will not only drive past Southend Hospital, but whilst doing will be doubtless noting that their journey is not even at the halfway mark

When every second counts, substantially increasing journey times is a very bad idea indeed.

But what of those whose treatment is done? However you look at it, getting back from Basildon could be very expensive, and taxi fares in the middle of the night will hit hard-worked pockets.

Visitors will also have to endure longer journey times, meaning for some that a visit will become rarer, if not abandoned as impossible.

Of course I will be defending my local hospital, a building close enough to be viewed from my childhood bedroom window. But I am not looking to get one over on Basildon and Chelmsford. I weep at their degradation too.

It looks like the National Health Service is getting hard-

er to access, contrary to the ideals of those who founded it in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.

Julian Ware-Lane
Westcliff-on-Sea

Shortsighted of tin foil Theresa

JOHN Maynard Keynes, in my opinion the greatest economist of all time, said: "When facts change I change my mind".

I suspect this is so with many who voted to leave the EU thus causing so much anguish with headline brexiteers.

Immigration was probably the main concern for leavers and we now learn greater numbers came from outside the EU area.

Prime Minister May is incredibly intransigent in not giving an undertaking to our existing EU residents So short sighted.

If not resolved satisfactorily we will lose over three million, many providing health and care services, and in return receive some one million repatriated, many elderly and retired in need of care.

Not so much Iron lady as tin foil Theresa.

Les Harrington
Benfleet

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk

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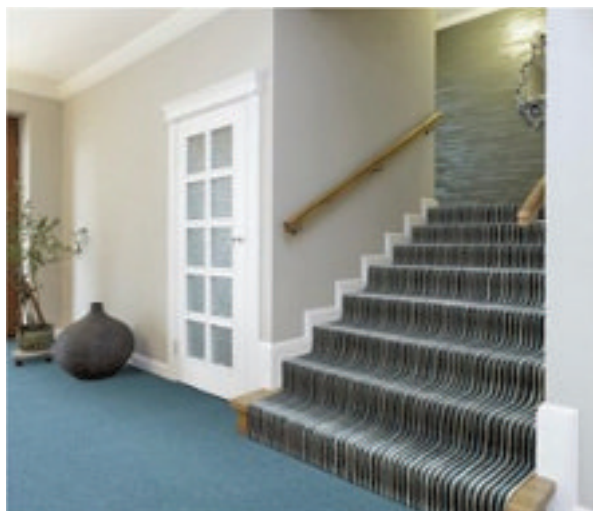
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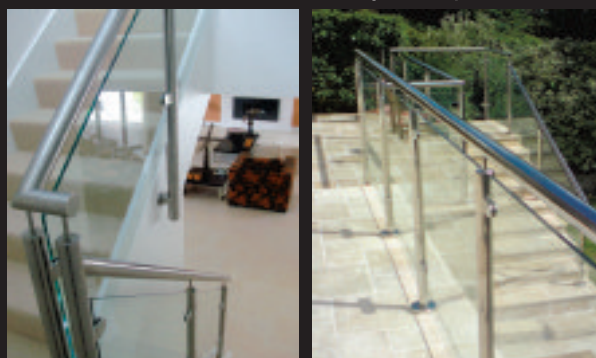


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LIFESTYLE

STANDING UP FOR SCHMUCKS

By Liz Wade & Ben Williams

features@yellowad.co.uk

AWARD-WINNING comedian and actor Omid Djalili will be treating an audience at Cliffs Pavilion to his unique brand of humour.

He will be at the Southend theatre on April 8, on the last leg of a 108-date tour, which kicked off in October last year and has been criss-crossing the UK ever since.

It finishes at the Hammersmith Apollo in London on May 20.

In this latest show, Schmuck For A Night, Omid tries to make sense of the world around him.

"I like the word schmuck," he said. "It means fool or buffoon. You have to be a schmuck to do comedy in today's climate."

"I'm embracing the schmuck in me to take on the big issues of our day. Plus, it's a word that ends with 'uck' which can only be a good thing."

Touching on Brexit, ISIS and Trump, Omid admits each show will be "so current sometimes audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV".

While his dance moves may have been prominent on his past tours, Omid admits that he has

become less frenetic.

"I used to dance every two minutes in between the stand-up. I can't even remember why."

"It was mentioned to me that when I danced audiences were laughing at me not with me."

"So it was either stop dancing or ban my manager from the gigs."

While some may be disappointed at the lack of dancing, they are delighted with his new tour, with reviews describing it as a "confident, engaging, thoughtful show" and "hugely enjoyable".

As a stand-up and acclaimed actor, Omid's credits range from Hollywood movies and television to live productions in the West End. He has appeared on UK and US TV, and starred in films such as Shaun the Sheep Movie, Mr Nice, Gladiator, Sex And The City 2, The Mummy and The Infidel.

On TV Omid has been seen in the BBC Four series Going Forward with Jo Brand, as well as in Dickensian for BBC1 and Stan Lee's Lucky Man for SKY1.

He has executive produced the acclaimed documentary We Are Many, about the global anti-war demonstrations that took place in 800 cities on February 15, 2003, to date the largest mobilisation of

human beings in history.

Last August, he produced Edinburgh Fringe show Iraq Out & Loud, which saw almost 1,500 comedians and members of the public read the entire Chilcot Report for 24 hours a day, over 12 days.

This memorable production was awarded the Panel Prize at Edinburgh Comedy Awards, and later TV Bomb's Zeitgeist Award.

Omid might now be known to millions for his roles in Hollywood blockbusters and West End appearances, but he started his career in fringe theatre, moving on to the theatres of central and eastern Europe in the early 1990s, and then the alternative comedy circuit. Although he has swapped dingy pub rooms for big theatres, it is still on stage doing stand-up where he is at his best.

Having been cast in Disney's The Nutcracker, alongside Morgan Freeman and Keira Knightley, Omid is not daunted with the task of filming alongside the tour, then showing up at a theatre to do stand-up.

"You'd think it'd be weird but it has never phased me," he said.

"Once in Barnet years ago I was late so didn't change and came



Omid Djalili

straight to the theatre from the set of The Mummy at Shepperton Studios and walked straight on stage in my film costume.

"I went on stage in full 1930s Egyptian prison warden garb. I even heard a crowd member say, 'Well at least he's making an effort'."

Away from stand-up, Omid has an impressive acting CV and has worked with the likes of Russell Crowe, Brad Pitt, Robert Redford, Johnny Depp, Mike Myers and Sarah Jessica Parker, but who has been most fun to work with?

"That's a tough one," he says.

● Turn to page 27

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Friday, March 31

- Leigh Floral Group – St Saviour's Church Hall, Kings Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8LL, 7.30pm. Demonstrator Rekha Naidoo with Florabundance. Admission £5.
- Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz Duo – San Fairie Ann, Alexander Street, Southend, 8.15pm. Details 01702 348088.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Overeaters Anonymous Basildon Group – Nevenden Community Hall, St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon, SS13 1BZ, 8pm, Colin, 07446 080054.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, beginners tai chi: 10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, snooker: 10 to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and bingo, £2, 01268 465854.
- Sequence Dancing – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 2.15-3.15pm, 01268 465854.
- Book Club – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-11am, 01268 465854.
- Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, not a stage school, designed to increase children's life skills, to enrol call Dina 01245 328680.
- Table Tennis – Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, off High Street, for over-50s, 11am-1pm, 07931 564105.

Saturday, April 1

- Ballroom, Latin and Sequence – St Thomas More High School, Westcliff-on-Sea, 730pm. Details Ron 07748 707122.
- Spring Fair – Salvation Army, 111 Corringham Road, Stanford-le-Hope, 10.30am to noon.
- Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz Duo – San Fairie Ann, Alexander Street, Southend, 1pm. Details 01702 348088.
- Rayleigh History Walk – from Rayleigh windmill, off Bellingham Lane, SS6 7ED, 3pm, £2 per person. Details 01268 775328.
- Saturday Club – for people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts, Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon, 01268 415409.
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- Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm, 07985 671289.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for stroke victims, 2.30pm, 01702 612509.

Sunday, April 2

- Jazz Workshop – Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old fire station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).
- Canvey Miniature Railway Train Rides – by Waterside Sports Centre, Sommes Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9RA, 10.30am-3.45pm, £1 each per ride, weather permitting.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut – behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, 10am to noon. Membership £3.
- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10, Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church, Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am to noon, 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, details Mo 07757 658799.
- Ron Spack's Jazztet – Brian Giles, trumpet, Alex Boyle, keyboard, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Southend, 8.30pm. Details 01702 512819.
- Bowls – FS&S Club, Gardeners Close, Basildon, All-weather green, free coaching, details call Chris 01268 419831.
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- Coffee Morning and sale of goods – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon.
- Club 50+ – 1B Queen's Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or just turn up.
- Dance Class – usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm, Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn up or call 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am to noon, tai chi: 10.30am-12.30pm, 10am to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm, £2, 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service – Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Blvd, Southend, all standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners Computer Course – Pitsea Day

Monday, April 3

- Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday 2-4pm, 01268 465854.
- Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
- Pensioners stall – York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance – 57 Point Road, Canvey, SS8 7TT, 3pm, £3 all profits to charity Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.
- Development Healing Circle – Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.
- Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild – Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street SS7 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm. Visitors £2.50.
- IT help sessions – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.
- Computer help session – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Free. 01277 624624.
- Painting class – The Studio, Glebeblades Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY, 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus, 07961 314983.
- Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Social Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, 01702 546219/542349.
- Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm, 01702 471873.
- Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.

Tuesday, April 4

- Painting class – The Studio, Glebeblades Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY, 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus, 07961 314983.
- Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Social Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, 01702 546219/542349.
- Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm, 01702 471873.
- Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.

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FILMGUIDE

Keith shot me about 14 times

From page 25

"I'd say, and anyone who's worked with him as an actor would agree, Keith Richards from the Rolling Stones, was probably the most extraordinary."

"He played the father of Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) in *Pirates of the Caribbean 3*.

"His character shoots and kills my character for no reason."

"This seemed to bother him. In fact, he shot me about 14 times and after each take he'd come up to me and say, 'Listen, you do know I don't mean this?'"

"It was almost like a joke but it wasn't. Bang! and he'd shuffle up and say, 'Nothing personal, mate, I hope you realise'."

"Then after another take, with the same sincerity and intensity - 'It's all acting. You know that. You're not upset with me, are you?'"

"Once he shot me and just said: 'Forgive them Lord, they know not what they do'."

"The final time he shot me, he just stood over me and mumbled: 'We've all got issues... it's all about mummy, innit?'"

"How right he was."

■ For tickets to see Omid Djalili during his *Schmuck For A Night* tour, which is suitable for those aged 16 and over, at Cliffs Pavilion on Saturday, April 8, visit southendtheatres.org.uk or call the theatre box office on 01702 351135.

Scarlett makes a splash



Scarlett Johansson plays The Major
PA Photo/Paramount Pictures

GHOST IN THE SHELL (12A, 107 mins)

BASED on the cult Japanese manga of the same title, *Ghost In The Shell* is an action-packed futuristic thriller directed by Rupert Sanders, set in a world where an elusive hacker is wreaking havoc by leaping into the minds of unsuspecting strangers.

The year is 2029 and cyborg counter-cyberterrorist field commander The Major (Scarlett Johansson) leads her team, Public Security Section 9, under the aegis of Chief Daisuke Aramaki (Takeshi Kitano). Her squad includes Batou (Pilou Asbaek), Togusa (Chin Han) and Ishikawa (Lazarus Ratuere).

They are the guardians of a world reliant on the artificial technology produced by Hanka Robotics, and join The Major in her high octane battles with cyberterrorists including Kuze (Michael Pitt), who seeks to exploit loopholes for nefarious gain.

A new adversary runs amok and The Major and her cohorts pool their resources to unmask the shadowy figures behind the conspiracy.

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Feed us into temptation

A RANGE of mouth-watering temptations are served at Westcliff's Spaghetti Junction.

This popular restaurant at 767 London Road offers some of the finest Italian and continental dishes in town.

As well as its excellent pizzas and pastas and its varied continental cuisine including paella, chicken piccante, loin of pork calvados and fillet steak wrapped in bacon, Spaghetti Junction also offers a wide choice of fish and meat dishes and there is plenty to choose from for those who prefer a vegetarian option such as the mushroom and chive risotto.

In addition there's a chef's special menu and board to view and a children's menu with a variety of main courses for £4.95 and desserts for £2 Monday to Saturday.

If you have room for more, the restaurant has built up a reputation for its mega-choice of excellent, monster-size delicious ice creams plus of course

other desserts such as pancakes, waffles, chocolate cookies and café gourmand, a popular French favourite offering a variety of delicious mini desserts with a cup of black, white or espresso coffee.

The restaurant has recently extended the dessert menu by introducing more exciting ice creams such as mouth-watering Chocaberry Champion, a delicious mixture of vanilla and chocolate ice cream with strawberries, marshmallows, chocolate flakes, white chocolate sauce and cream, Caramel Popsy, vanilla and salted caramel ice cream with sweet popcorn, toffee sauce and cream, Nicely Nutty, Chocachio and Chippy Cookie Charmer.

For those who want something a little more exotic there are liqueur ice creams such as Crème de la Crème with vanilla ice cream, Maltesers, chocolate sauce, crème de menthe and cream and Blarney Bliss with vanilla and coffee ice cream, toffee sauce, cantuccini biscuits,

Baileys and cream. Should you wish to share an even bigger monster size ice cream there are the 'sharing desserts' such as the Doubly Divine, Luscious Luxury and Twix as Good.

Spaghetti Junction offers a range of deals from Monday to Friday evenings. Diners can enjoy the pizza and pasta menu giving a wide choice of starters and pasta or pizza for £10.95, while the duo menu offers main course and dessert for £10.95. Diners can enjoy a 'buy one, get one half price' deal on both these menus only on Monday evenings.

A three course set menu is also available from Monday to Friday for £16.95, while on Saturday there is also a special three course set menu for £22.95.

The extensive a la carte menu is available every evening Monday to Saturday.

The restaurant has also introduced gluten free options and many of the dishes on the menus can be prepared and made with ingredients, which to the knowledge of the restaurant do not contain gluten, including the pastas.

Spaghetti Junction is the ideal setting for parties of up to 30 and is also available for private functions.

There is also a take away menu available.

The restaurant, situated at 767 London Road, Westcliff (opposite Chalkwell Park), is open Monday to Saturday from 5pm until late.

For further information call 01702 473388 or visit www.spaghetijunctionrestaurant.co.uk where full details of all the menus can be found.

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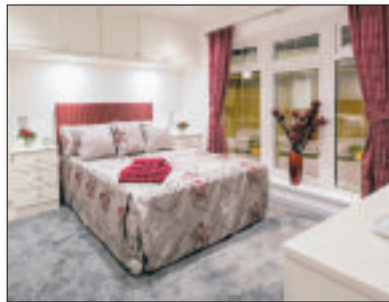


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Leigh-On-Sea

£265,000



Ground floor apartment offering two double bedrooms, spacious hallway, lounge, kitchen, modern family bathroom and paved garden to the rear with private access. Property is within close proximity to local shops and station

Southend-On-Sea

£260,000



This semi detached chalet style house offers two bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen and breakfast / utility area and modern fitted family bathroom. There is off street parking to the front of the property and a brick built annex.

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£180,000



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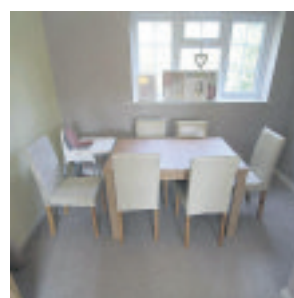
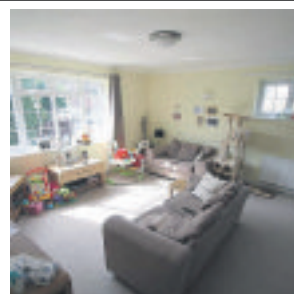
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- Two bedrooms
- Own Garage
- Secluded communal gardens
- Sought after location

Westcliff On Sea £800 pcm



- Spacious first floor apartment
- Lounge diner and two double bedrooms
- Immaculate throughout
- Off street parking

Southend On Sea £995 pcm



- Spacious detached bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Off street parking
- Central location

Southend on Sea Restaurant to Let £25,000 Per Annum



- 1,210 SQ FT
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- EXTRACTION SYSTEM
- STAFF / DISABLED TOILET

Southend on Sea Offices to Let £4,420 to £7,500 Per Annum



- 140 SQ FT TO 274 SQ FT
- COMMUNAL KITCHEN/WC
- CENTRAL HEATING
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE

Westcliff on Sea Mixed Investment For Sale £800,000 F/H



- INCOME: £49,000 ANNUM
- 5 X 1 BED FIRST & SECOND FLOOR FLATS
- GROUND FLOOR TENANT
- LONDON ROAD LOCATION

Leigh on Sea Shop to Let £10,000 Per Annum



- 700 SQ FT
- MODERN UNIT
- PARKING SPACE TO REAR
- LONDON ROAD LOCATION

Rochford Shop to Let £6,000 Per Annum



- 512 SQ FT
- SLATTED WALLS AND COUNTER
- KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING
- ON STREET PARKING TO FRONT

Leigh on Sea Shop/Office to Let £5,200 Per Annum



- 554 SQ FT
- KITCHENETTE/W.C.
- PARKING ON FORECOURT
- AVAILABLE EARLY APRIL 17

Southend on Sea Business For Sale A3 Restaurant Use



- 640 SQ FT
- PREMIUM £5,000
- ASSIGNMENT OF LONG LEASE
- 36 COVERS

Westcliff on Sea Shop to Let £6,000 Per Annum



- 574 SQ FT
- NEW SHOP FRONT
- CLOSE TO PALACE THEATRE
- STORAGE AREA TO REAR

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Bowers Gifford

- Three Bedrooms
- No Onward Chain
- Energy D 62



£320,000

- Kitchen/Diner
- Popular Area
- Garage



Basildon

- Three Bedrooms
- Popular Location
- Energy D 65



£290,000

- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Area
- Off Street Parking



Basildon

£250,000

- Two Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Energy D 56
- No Onward Chain



Basildon

£255,000

- Two Bedrooms
- Semi-detached
- Energy D 64
- Popular Road



Basildon

£250,000

- Two Bedrooms
- No Chain
- Energy D 67
- Popular Location



Basildon

£265,000

- Two Bedrooms
- No Onward Chain
- Energy C 69
- Garage



Basildon

£675.00 PCM

- Ground Floor
- One Bedroom
- Energy E 53
- Close To Station



Basildon

£316,000

- Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Energy C 80
- En-Suite
- Two Receptions
- Garage



Basildon

£725.00 PCM

- Top Floor
- One Bedroom
- Energy D 65
- Popular Location



Billericay

760

- Refurbished
- One Bedroom
- Energy C 78
- Popular Area



Basildon

£370,000

- Separate Annex
- Off Street Parking
- Energy C 72
- Ample Accommodation
- Four Bedrooms
- Room For All



Basildon

£860.00

- Two Bedrooms
- Top Floor
- Energy C 77
- Close to Station

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Lettings



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Benfleet
£615,000

- Five BEDROOMS
- No Onward Chain
- Energy C 78
- High Standard
- Popular Location
- Close to Transport Routes
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite & Balcony To Master



Canvey Island
£325,000

- Two Bedrooms
- No Onward Chain
- Energy F 23
- High Standard Fittings
- Utility Room
- En-Suite & Dresser To Master
- Off Street Parking
- Popular Location



Bowers Gifford
£325,000

- Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Energy TBC
- Popular Location
- Loft Room
- Off Street Parking
- Established Garden
- Conservatory



Benfleet
£410,000

- Three Bedrooms
- Well Presented
- Energy TBC
- Popular Location
- Large Garden
- Close to Popular Schools
- En-Suite To Master
- Conservatory

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MARINE ESTATE, LEIGH £589,995

Detached family house, sought after Marine Estate location, short walk to Leigh Station and within the Westleigh Schools Catchment Area. Garage and workshop, parking for three cars, 70' WEST FACING rear garden. Cloaks / w.c., fitted kitchen & utility room, superb 20' x 13'4 lounge with feature fireplace, a separate 17'2 x 12'2 dining room, three bedrooms and a large luxury bathroom. Ref etl5521



CHALKWELL HALL ESTATE £239,950

PRICED TO ALLOW FOR SOME MODERNISATION - this purpose built two bedroom 2nd floor flat is situated in an eagerly sought after block behind wrought iron gates in Imperial Avenue, on the Chalkwell Hall Estate, walking distance of Chalkwell Station. The property benefits from lovely views across the bowling green and has the advantage of a balcony and garage.



PROBATE SALE - HULLBRIDGE £299,995

MODERNISATION REQUIRED - Two/ three bedroom semi detached Chalet / Bungalow in sought after location, lovely 30' x 70' approx rear garden, double width driveway. garage space (stp), spacious lounge, conservatory, 10' x 9'6 kitchen. This property was originally a three bedroom chalet and could easily be converted back if required. Keys available for viewing by appointment. Ref etl 5534

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LARGE MAISONETTE WITH FABULOUS ESTUARY VIEWS, LEIGH - GUIDE PRICE £400,000 - £425,000

A large two double bedroom first and second floor maisonette with GARAGE and TWO SOUTH FACING BALCONIES enjoying exceptional estuary views towards the Kent coastline. Eagerly sought after location, walking distance of Chalkwell Station, the beach and Leigh Broadway. FREEHOLD INCLUDED. 20' x 15' lounge / diner, 13'10 x 10'6 kitchen with access to 3rd balcony, cloaks/ w.c./ utility room, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, shower room/ w.c. Ref etl 5556

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LEIGH-ON-SEA £549,500

A beautifully presented detached four bedroom house in the Westleigh Schools catchment area and walking distance of Leigh Station. En-suite shower room to master bedroom, luxury bathroom and separate w.c., large lounge with feature fireplace, elegant separate dining room, spacious luxury fitted kitchen, lovely 65' approx rear garden, garage and independent drive. Ref etl5471

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GRADE 2 LISTED COTTAGE, GREAT WAKERING £315,000

A charming Grade II listed character cottage situated in the village of Great Wakering. Delightful courtyard garden with gated parking area, lounge with feature fireplace, dining room also with fireplace, kitchen, bathroom/w.c. two bedrooms and useful attic room Ref etl 5540



MARINE ESTATE, LEIGH £425,000

Semi-detached bungalow, completely refurbished within the last two years, offering spacious and modern living accommodation, situated on the eagerly sought after Marine Estate within walking distance of Leigh Station. Two bedrooms en suite shower, spacious lounge with bi-fold doors, 18' luxury kitchen and dining area with integrated appliances, luxury bathroom, lovely landscaped garden and off street parking. Ref etl5538

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Town & Country

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DETACHED BUNGALOW- HIGHLANDS, LEIGH-ON-SEA £P.O.A.

Most attractive detached character bungalow with two double bedrooms and two reception rooms, new gas c/h, new kitchen, new shower room, garage and parking for 4 cars, 40' x 70' west facing rear garden, lounge with delightful inglenook fireplace, separate dining room - eagerly sought after location, walking distance of local shops, Leigh Station and schools including Westleigh Schools. Ref etl5530

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CUSTOMER REVIEW ★★★★★: "You are by far the friendliest and most helpful agent in the area. I hope your business goes from strength to strength" Amy & Rees



Rayleigh OIEO £200,000

Available to applicants aged 55 and over, we are pleased to offer for sale this TWO BEDROOM, GROUND FLOOR retirement apartment with its own direct access to communal parking and garden area's. The property has been very well maintained throughout and we strongly advise an early viewing.



Rayleigh £399,995

Situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac and located within easy reach of Rayleigh Town & Station, we are pleased to offer this spacious TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM detached bungalow set on a generous secluded plot. The property benefits from having NO ONWARD CHAIN & viewing is highly recommended.



Rayleigh £485,000

A LOVELY HOME set within ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER LOCATIONS IN RAYLEIGH! - Just a short walk to Rayleigh Town & Station. Four good size bedrooms, two reception rooms, delightful garden, double width garage all make this a GENUINE MUST SEE PROPERTY WITH NO ONWARD CHAIN!



Rayleigh £295,000

A superbly presented TWO BEDROOM home set on the ever popular Little Wheatley's development. Features include a quality fitted kitchen, impressive refitted bathroom and a delightful, larger than average garden. Homes of this quality are rarely available and therefore an early viewing is essential.

6 High Street, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7EG
01268 774316 - www.rona.co.uk

CUSTOMER REVIEW ★★★★★: "Your professionalism and integrity is second to none, we would recommend you to anyone looking to buy or sell" Richard & Verity



Rayleigh £349,995

Offering immaculately presented and extremely spacious accommodation, we are delighted to offer for sale this TWO BEDROOM semi detached bungalow which features a master bedroom with dressing area and en-suite, 20'6 living room, a stunning 20'6 kitchen/diner and a superb established 65' rear garden.



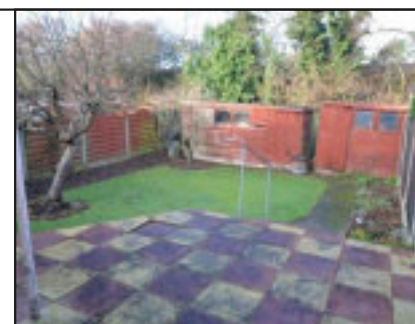
Leigh on Sea £343,000

An extended and immaculately presented THREE BEDROOM semi detached chalet set within the favoured Fairway School catchment area. The property features generous accommodation including a stunning kitchen opening out to a spacious dining area, 20'2 lounge and a delightful 60' rear garden. A must see!



Rayleigh £339,995

An excellent opportunity to purchase this TWO/THREE BEDROOM semi detached chalet located within this highly regarded and central location, being within walking distance of both Town & Station. Features include four piece bathroom suite, off street parking and no onward chain.



Rayleigh £295,000

An excellent opportunity to purchase this surprisingly spacious two bedroom semi detached bungalow ideally located for both Rayleigh High Street & Station. The property features a modern kitchen & wet room and is a perfect blank canvass for a buyer to move into and make their own. No onward chain.

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Commonhall Lane, HADLEIGH

O.I.E.O £525,000



An Imposing Four Bedroom Detached Residence Within The King John School Catchment Area Offering A Wealth Of Character Features; Viewing Highly Recommended \ Reception Hall 9'4 x 8'8 \ Lounge 12'11 x 12'4 \ Dining Room 14'0 x 11'0 \ Kitchen/Diner 15'7 x 13'0 \ Breakfast Room 14'3 x 7'9 \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Bedroom One 13'11 x 11'2 \ Bedroom Two 12'11 x 12'6 \ Bedroom Three 12'6 x 9'1 \ Bedroom Four 13'6 x 7'0 \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ Landscaped Rear Garden \ Attached Garage 24'0 x 7'5 \ Off Street Parking \ EPC Band D \ Call 01702 555888

Wyburn Road, DAWS HEATH

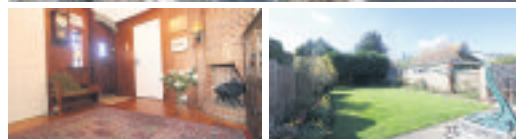
£525,000



Spacious Four Bedroom Detached Family Home \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Lounge 26'6 x 13'8 Narrowing To 11'5 \ Dining Room 11'5 x 9'5 \ Kitchen/Breakfast Room 18'10 x 9'4 \ Utility Room 7'5 x 5'4 \ Bedroom One 15'5 x 10'11 With En-Suite Bathroom 7'8 x 7'8 \ Bedroom Two 15'5 max x 9'9 max With En-Suite Shower Room \ Bedroom Three 14'3 x 11'6 \ Bedroom Four 13'0 x 7'9 \ Family Bathroom Suite \ uPVC Double Glazing \ Gas Central Heating \ Double Length Garage \ Extremely Popular Daws Heath Location \ Close To Local Amenities \ Easy Access Of Popular Schools & Woodland Walks \ Sole Agents \ Viewing Advised \ EPC Band B \ Call 01702555888

HADLEIGH / Guide £290,000 - £295,000

Excellent Three Bedroom Home In This Popular Location \ A Short Stroll From Picturesque Countryside, Hadleigh Country Park And Town Centre \ Lounge 18'1 x 12'5 \ Kitchen/Diner 18'6 x 15'4 \ Bedroom One 14'11 x 9'4 \ Bedroom Two 12'9 x 8'2 \ Bedroom Three 9'8 x 6'10 \ Bathroom Suite \ Pleasant Rear Garden Measuring 36ft \ Garage \ Conveniently Located Being A Short Walk For Hadleigh Town Centre & Hadleigh Castle \ EPC - C \ Call 01702 555888

HADLEIGH / £375,000

A Wonderful South Backing Character Bungalow In This Desirable Location Offering Versatile Accommodation & A Wealth Of Charm \ Reception Hall 10'4 x 9'7 Plus Lobby Space \ Bedroom/Lounge 13'6 x 11'11 \ Dining Room/Sitting Room 12'5 x 12'5 \ Kitchen 11'0 x 8'10 \ Bedroom One 12'5 x 9'10 \ Bedroom Two 9'5 x 7'5 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Garage & Off Street Parking \ South Backing Rear Garden Measuring Approx 60ft \ Popular Location Ideally Situated For Town Centre & Woodland Walks \ EPC - D \ Call 01702 555888

HADLEIGH / Guide £200,000 - £210,000

Vacant Two Bedroom Top Floor Retirement Apartment In Sought After Development \ L-Shaped Lounge/Kitchen 16'7 max x 16'5 max \ Bedroom One 10'5 x 9'9 plus wardrobe depth \ Bedroom Two 11'4 x 6'10 Increasing To 10'4 \ Bedroom Two 11'4 x 6'10 Increasing To 10'4 \ Communal Conservatory/Sun Lounge \ Communal Kitchen \ Guest Suite Available For Rent \ Communal Gardens \ Residents Parking \ Far Reaching Views Over Salvation Army Fields Towards The Thames Estuary \ No Onward Chain \ 24hr Careline \ Walking Distance To Hadleigh Town Centre \ EPC Band B \ Call 01702 555888

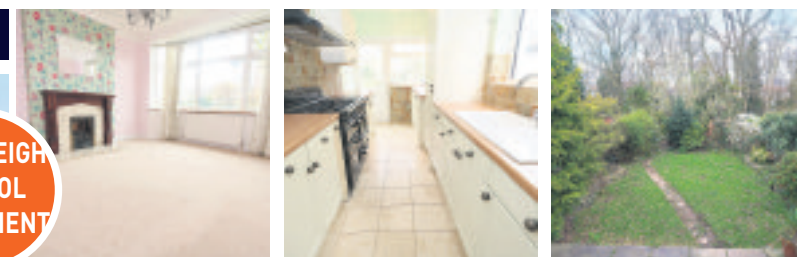
DAWS HEATH / £425,000

Spacious Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Situated In This Extremely Sought After Location \ Reception Hall 15'0 x 5'10 \ Lounge/Diner 24'7 x 12'5 x 9'1 \ Kitchen 11'8 x 8'10 \ Bedroom One 13'8 x 11'11 \ Bedroom Two 10'10 x 9'5 \ Bathroom 9'9 x 7'2 max \ 45ft South Backing Rear Garden \ Sought After Daws Heath Location \ Close To Belfairs Woods & Nature Walks \ Short Drive Of Town Centre & A127 Trunk Roads \ Rarely Available \ Double Glazed \ Gas Central Heating \ Viewings Advised \ EPC Band D \ Call 01702 555888

Poors Lane, HADLEIGH / Guide £550,000 - £575,000

A Superb Home In This Desirable Location Close To Local Conveniences, Woods & Park In Exceptional Condition \ Entrance Hall 10'7 x 10'1 \ L-Shaped Lounge/Diner 25'3 max x 21'1 max \ Kitchen/Breakfast Room 20'11 x 9'11 \ Conservatory 14'4 x 11'7 \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Bedroom One 15'1 x 10'10 \ Bedroom Two 14'3 x 10'0 \ Bedroom Three 10'11 x 10'2 \ Bedroom Four 10'9 x 7'7 \ Bedroom Five/Study 7'7 x 5'10 \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ South Backing Landscaped 65ft Rear Garden \ Summerhouse \ Garage & Plenty Of Off Street Parking \ Epc - D \ Call 01702 555888

Land required with or without planning.

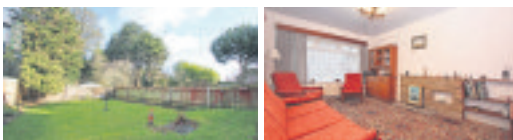
St. Davids Drive, LEIGH-ON-SEA / £475,000

Westleigh School Catchment Area - An Attractive Three Bedroom Semi Detached House Offering A Great Scope For Extension On The Popular Highlands Estate \ Lounge 14'0 x 12'0 \ Dining Room 11'5 x 13'8 \ Kitchen 16'10 x 6'9 \ Bedroom One 13'0 max x 12'0 into wardrobes \ Bedroom Two 13'3 x 10'4 \ Bedroom Three 8'2 x 7'7 \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ 60ft Rear Garden \ Off Street Parking \ Good Size Plot \ Quiet Location \ No Onward Chain \ Viewings Essential \ EPC Band D \ Call 01702 555888

Hadleigh - t: 01702 555 888
Hockley - t: 01702 207 720
Rayleigh - t: 01268 742 742
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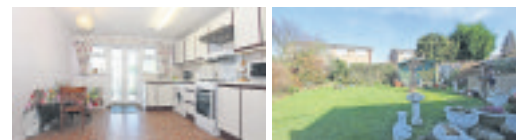


HOCKLEY**£425,000****NO CHAIN**

Three Bedroom family Home \ Great Location Within The Heart Of Hockley Close To High Street & Train Station \ Fully Detached \ Huge Potential For Extension \ Double Glazed Windows \ Large Garage & Driveway \ Good Size Rear Garden \ No Onward Chain \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 For Immediate Viewing**

HAWKWELL**£435,000****MUST BE SEEN**

Three Bedroom Detached Chalet Bungalow \ Minutes From Hockley Shops & Train Station Into Liverpool Street \ Recently Refurbished To Excellent Standard \ Sweeping In/Out Driveway \ Double Glazed Windows \ Study/Potential Bedroom Four \ Must Be Seen Inside To Fully Appreciate \ **Call 01702 207720 for more information.**

HOCKLEY**£350,000****KEYS HELD**

Charming Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow \ Conservatory Overlooking Garden \ Spacious 16ft Lounge \ Gas Radiators \ Double Glazing \ Great Garden With Feature Koi Pond \ Own Driveway To Garage \ Short Walk To Hockley Station & Shops \ Huge Potential \ Keys Held For Viewing \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 To View**

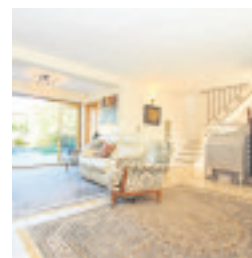
HOCKLEY**From £410,000****GREAT LOCATION**

Spacious Extended Four Bedroom Family Home \ Good Size Rear Garden \ Fabulous Kitchen/Breakfast Room \ Three Reception Rooms \ Fitted Bedroom Furniture \ Popular Betts Farm Estate Within Walking Distance Of Primary School \ 17ft Pitched Roof Garage \ Must Be Viewed \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 To View**

HOCKLEY**£365,000****SHORT WALK TO STATION**

Spacious Three/Four Bedroom Family House \ Full Width Conservatory \ En-Suite To Master Bedroom \ Well Decorated Home \ Lounge With Feature Fireplace \ Ground Floor Cloakroom \ Neat rear Garden With Sun Deck \ easy Distance Of Station, Shops & Greensward School \ **Call Hockley Office 01268 742742 To View**

Land required with or without planning.

HOCKLEY**£785,000****SEMI RURAL POSITION**

Enormous semi rural, five bedroom / five reception room residence occupying a third of an acre plot set among hundreds of acres of open farmland \ Third Of An Acre Plot \ Five Bedroom \ Five Reception Rooms \ Semi Rural Location \ Panoramic Farmland Views \ Heated Swimming Pool \ In Out Driveway \ Character Features \ Believed To Date Back To 17th Century \ Viewing Strictly By Prior Appointment \ Greensward And Fitzwimarc Catchment \ Ideal For Dual Occupancy \ **Call Hockley Office 01702 207720**

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Benfleet

£1,050 pcm



TO LET



This Is A Good Size Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House In Benfleet / Lounge 12'14 x 14'96 / Brand New Fitted Kitchen 13'34 x 8'06 / Dining Room 10'14 x 6'83 / Master Bedroom 14'95 x 10'75 / Bedroom Two 14'97 x 8'29 / Front And Rear Gardens / EPC Band C / Available Immediately / Fees Apply

Thundersley

£825 pcm



TO LET



This Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat Has Been Fully Refurbished To A High Standard / Lounge 12'08 x 13'29 / Brand New Kitchen 12'86 x 7'97 / Brand New Three Piece Bathroom Suite 7'94 x 5'80 / Master Bedroom 11'34 x 10'50 / Bedroom Two 7'94 x 5'80 / Shared Rear Garden / Off Street Parking / Convenient Location / EPC Band D / Available Immediately / Fees Apply /



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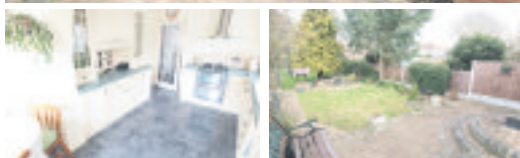
You will fall in love with our services.

Hadleigh

£1,250 pcm



LET AGREED



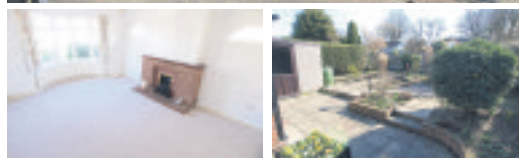
This Is A Large, Modern Three Bedroom Bungalow In Hadleigh / Lounge 10'84 x 24'62 / Modern Kitchen With Dining Area 8'76 x 16'56 / Brand New Three Piece Bathroom Suite 5'61 x 6'88 / Separate Modern W/C / Master Bedroom 11'23 x 12'71 / Bedroom Two 8'62 x 8'73 / Bedroom Three 7'65 x 8'36 / Large Rear Garden / Off Street Parking / Garage / EPC Band D / Available Immediately / Fees Apply /

Hadleigh

£1,000 pcm



LET AGREED



This Is A Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow In Hadleigh Close To The Town Centre / Lounge 16'95 x 11'95 / Modern Kitchen 8'92 x 9'60 / Sun Room 6'86 x 6'50 / Master Bedroom 11'54 x 9'82 / Bedroom Two 10'02 x 7'91 / Front And Rear Gardens / Off Street Parking / Garage / Quiet Location / EPC Band D / Available March / Fees Apply /

Rayleigh

£1,100 pcm



LET AGREED




A Two Bedroom Recently Redecorated Bungalow In Rayleigh / Lounge 11'92 x 13'62 / Further Reception Room 9'46 x 7'25 / Kitchen 10'9 x 7'7 / Bathroom 7'78 x 7'64 / Master Bedroom 12'56 x 12'39 / Bedroom Two 12'49 x 10'28 / Front & Rear Garden / Garage / Front Driveway / EPC Band E / Fees Apply / Available Immediately /

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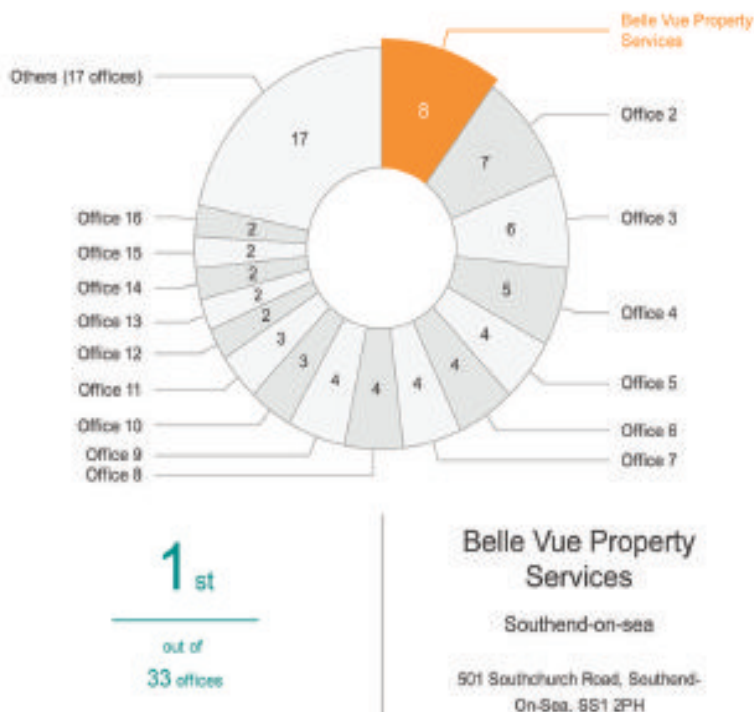
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SOUTHEND ON SEA



- 3 Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- Need Refurbishment
- Detached Bungalow
- No Onward Chain
- Ref:3633, EPC:TBC

£250,000

SOUTHCURCH VILLAGE



- 3 Bedroom House
- No Onward Chain
- Close to C2C Line
- Fully Redecorated
- Close To Schools
- Ref:3614, EPC:D

£1,600 pcm

THORPE BAY, BOURNES GREEN CATCHMENT



- 3 Bedroom
- Bournes Green
- En-Suite
- 2 Reception
- Double Garage
- Ref:3634, EPC:D

£750 pcm

SOUTHEND ON SEA



- 2 Bedroom Flat
- Off Street Parking
- Close To Park
- Purpose Built
- Close To Seafront
- Ref:3135, EPC:B

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ESTUARY MEWS

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A LUXURY DEVELOPMENT OF TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN LEIGH-ON-SEA

Situated on the fringes of the Marine Estate, this exceptional development of two bedroom apartments opens up all that the area has to offer. Benefiting from excellent access to the heart of Leigh and convenient transport links, via the A13 or Leigh Station, to London.



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Swift Swiss roll by Suzuki

By Stewart Smith

FOLLOWING its launch in Japan last year, Suzuki has unveiled the European version of its new Swift supermini at the Geneva Motor Show.

The Swift is an important model for Suzuki and has notched up 5.4million sales globally in less than 12 years, making it the Japanese car maker's fastest seller.

The car sits on the same platform Suzuki has used for its new Baleno and Ignis models and the new Swift is some 120kg lighter overall.

Although slightly shorter than the previous model the new Swift has a longer wheel-base which has created more interior space.

Luggage space is also up 25 per cent to 254 litres.

Engines in the new Swift will include Suzuki's new 1.0-litre three cylinder Boosterjet

turbo block with an output of 111bhp and the more established 1.2-litre Dualjet power plant which develops 90bhp.

The new

Swift will also be available as

a four-wheel drive model with the ALLGRIP 4x4 system an option on the top range SZ5

model fitted with the 1.2-litre engine.

Acceleration time to 62mph is 11.9 seconds for two-wheel drive 1.2-litre Swift and 12.6 seconds for the ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive model. The SZ5 models come with a 4.2-inch high definition colour LCD display in the instrument panel that shows a range of information including engine output and torque data, fuel consumption, average speed, acceleration and brake operation as well as driving G-force tracking.



The new Suzuki Swift

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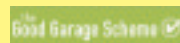
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Southend enhance play-off chances as Wombles wilt at home

BLUES SERVE UP A TREAT

Football

**AFC Wimbledon 0
Southend United 2**
Brian Jeeves reporting from
Kingsmeadow

SOUTHEND United manager, Phil Brown, celebrated four years in the Roots Hall hot seat as his side continued their assault on a Sky Bet League One play-off berth with a comfortable 2-0 victory over AFC Wimbledon.

With a top-six spot almost beyond the mid-table host's, many believed they could approach the Blues visit in a relaxed mood. Nevertheless, a brace of recent clean sheets, which included a notable 2-0 success over bitter rivals, MK Dons, suggested that Wimbledon would be more than a match for Phil Brown's charges.

Blues arrived at Kingsmeadow having recorded back-to-back victories over Coventry City and Walsall and sitting in the final League One play-off places after Swindon Town had grabbed a late winner to deny Millwall the chance of leapfrogging the Roots Hall outfit into sixth place in the days early fixture.

Early exchanges were somewhat untidy. Tom Elliott nodded Andy Barcham's centre wide of the mark as the homes side created the first clear-cut opportunity, while Wimbledon goalkeeper, James Shea, did well to turn aside Anthony Wordsworth's low strike as the Blues responded.

Barcham and Tom Soares were both wayward as Wimbledon continued to press. However, ten minutes before the break, Nile Ranger expertly tiptoed through the Wimbledon rearguard before planting an angled effort low beyond Shea to hand Southend the lead.

The home side looked for an immediate response. Taylor was a whisker away from a telling contact with Soares pinpoint pass, while Jason Demetriou was thwarted by Shea as the sides exchanged opportunities as the

half drew to its conclusion.

Elliott's attempt drifted the wrong side of an upright, while Jake Reeves strike was deflected behind as Wimbledon looked to restore parity immediately after the break. In between, Simon Cox wasn't far away from doubling Southend's advantage, Shea denying the one-time West Bromwich Albion striker with a flying save low to his right.

But just after the hour mark Cox responded the quickest to some hesitant defending before fiercely lashing a right-footed strike past the helpless Shea for Southend's second of the afternoon.

Blues were now comfortably in the ascendancy with both Cox and Ranger proving to be a constant threat to the despondent home side. Substitute, Theo Robinson, should have put the contest out of reach, scuffling against the outside of a post after wriggling clear of a static backline.

But there was to be no further addition to the scoring. This victory left Blues in sixth place and looking good as the campaign reaches its final hurdles.

Speaking after the match, Brown said: "You guys have been with me for four years and will know that my favourite score is 1-0, but I'll take the clean sheet on my fourth anniversary."

"It wasn't going to be a classic because of the state of play, the windy conditions, the ball bouncing. It was quite a hard surface to get some football played on. We had to go back more or less to the Coventry tactic, putting it into areas and putting the back three on the back foot."

On Ranger's sensational opening goal, Brown added: "The first goal, that's out of the top draw. It doesn't matter what division you are playing in, if you see something like that on a Saturday you realise how special the player is. He worked his socks off for the team, Nile Ranger, he got his reward. So did



TOP DRAWER:
Nile Ranger
Photo by Martin Dalton

Cox (Simon Cox), he got his reward as well. We were so bitterly disappointed that Theo's (Theo Robinson) chance hit the post and gone wide because when he came on, he worked his socks off as well.

"It's not just the strikers. The work rate of the midfield four was outstanding. Will Atkinson personified that in front of me in the second half. Lenny (Ryan Leonard) was priceless to the team. He's a goal threat, but it was a difficult surface for him, the same for Macca (Stephen McLaughlin).

"The back four are delighted to get a clean sheet, but I thought it was a team clean sheet today."

"Things today seemed to go in the right direction. As a fourth anniversary that's a lovely present for me."

Meanwhile, Blues striker, Simon Cox, said: "We knew coming here was going to be a tough game. A small pitch, they are big and strong. We had to come here and do a professional job."

"We knew we were going to

have to defend really well today to come away with three points. I thought we defended really well, put out head in where it hurts, tackles. It wasn't a day for playing nice football, it was a day for grit, determination and graft."

Southend United are next in Sky Bet League One action on Saturday, April 1 when Oldham Athletic are the visitors to Roots Hall Stadium (3pm).

AFC Wimbledon: James Shea, Will Nightingale, Paul Robinson (Capt), Darius Charles, George Francomb, Tom Soares (Dean Parrett 67'), Jake Reeves, Jon Meades, Lyle Taylor (Dom Poleon 82'), Tom Elliott (Tyronne Barnett 82'), Andy Barcham. Subs not used: Joe McDonnell (GK), David Fitzpatrick, Sean Kelly, Alfie Egan.

Southend United: Ted Smith, Ben Coker, Anthony Wordsworth, Adam Thompson, Simon Cox (Theo Robinson 74'), Stephen McLaughlin, Will Atkinson, Ryan Leonard, Jason Demetriou, Anton Ferdinand (Capt), Nile Ranger. Subs not used: John White, Michael Timlin, Marc-Antoine Fortune, Luke Amos, Jermaine McGlashan, Ryan Inniss.

Referee: Nicholas Kinsey

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Roots Hall
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Non-league round-up

Clarets enhance their play-off credentials

By Brian Jeeves

NATIONAL League South play-off hopefuls, Chelmsford City, did their play-off ambitions the power of good with a resounding 5-1 victory over struggling Gosport Borough at the Melbourne Stadium.

The Clarets were given an early shock when Ben Wright handed the visitors a fifth-minute lead. However, a brace from Kane Haysman along with further goals from Louie Theophanous, Anthony Church and Chris Dickson ensured City all three points.

It proved to be a good day for the region's other National South clubs as a Jordan Chiedozie double helped Concord Rangers to a 2-0 victory over Hemel Hempstead Town at the Aspect Arena, while Chelmsford's Essex Senior Cup final opponents, East Thurrock United, were 3-1 winners at Weston-Super-Mare. Ferni Akinwande (2) and Reece Harris with the all-important Rocks goals.

There were mixed fortunes for the region's teams in the National League's top division. Frankie Raymond's late goal earned Dagenham & Redbridge a 1-0 win over relegation-haunted York City at Victoria Road. Meanwhile, Braintree Town were sunk by the same margin at Tranmere Rovers. Andy Cook with the only goal shortly before the hour mark.

Billerica Town continued their late push from a Ryman League Premier Division play-off place with a comfortable 3-0 win over Dulwich Hamlet at Champion Hill. Adam Cunnington, Joseph Ellul and Jake Robinson found the net for the Blues in front of a bumper crowd of 2,805.

A Chidi Williams-Agunabor strike wasn't enough to save Grays Athletic from a 3-1 loss at the hands of Enfield Town. Elsewhere, Canvey Island's five-match winning streak was brought to its conclusion as league leaders, Bognor Regis Town, saw off the Gulls by four goals to nil at Nyewood Lane.

In Ryman League Division One North Great Woking Rovers staged an incredible fightback against Waltham Abbey at Burroughs Park. Rovers trailed 3-0 thanks to goals from Billy Holland, Arian Retkoceri and Romaric Logon, but staged a superb recovery to earn a 3-3 draw thanks to Jake Gordon, Scott Pethers and Stephen Butterworth. However, the point wasn't enough to save the villagers from relegation. They will be playing their football in the Essex Senior League next season.

Martin Tuohy's double saw AFC Hornchurch beat Norwich United 2-0 at Bridge Avenue, while Liam Nash's early strike was enough for Maldon & Tiptree to bag the points at Thamesmead Town.

Aveley were 1-0 winners at Wroxham, Mason Bloomfield with the only goal, while Glenn Poole hit the winner as Thurrock won by the same scoreline at Cheshunt. Romford also had a narrow single-goal success, Chinedu McKenzie, ensuring visitors Bury Town went home empty handed.

Adam Adeoye Yusuff and Reece Grant helped Heybridge Swifts to a 2-1 win over Ware at the Scraley Road Stadium, while Ryan Charles and Max Bradford were on target as Witham Town edged out Tilbury by the odd goal in three. Tony Martin came up with the Dockers response from the penalty spot.

Lamar Reynold's late penalty helped Brentwood Town to a 1-1 draw at VCD Athletic. However, it was a bad day at the office for Bowers & Pitsea, who crashed 2-0 at Soham Town Rangers.

In the Essex Senior League, leaders Barking were 2-0 winners over Eton Manor at Mayesbrook Park. Basildon United saw off Redbridge by three goals to one, while Enfield 1893 stunned Ilford with a 4-1 success.

Southend Manor won 3-2 against Tower Hamlets at the Southchurch Park Arena, while Takeley were 2-0 winners at Sporting Bengal United. Barkingside and Haringey & Waltham played out a 1-1 draw.

Selected highlights from the ProKit UK Essex Olympian League - May & Baker EC were 4-1 winners over Harold Hill, while Rayleigh Town picked up a 3-2 success over Frenford Senior.

Basildon Town continued their relentless march towards the Division One title with a 3-0 win over Old Southendian. Catholic United kept up the pressure with a 3-0 triumph over Great Baddow.

Big winners in Division One were Shenfield AFC who scored five without reply against Newham United.

Game of the day in Division Two saw Benfleet edge out Ryan FC by four goals to three, while Ramsden Scotia were also in form, seeing off Upminster 4-2.

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